

## Lerwick Community Council

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 AT TOWN HALL/MS TEAMS AT 6.00PM

#### 1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

##### Present

Jim Anderson (Chair)  
Andy Carter  
Karen Fraser  
Brian Harris  
Amanda Hawick  
Scott Nicolson  
Stewart Hay  
Averil Simpson  
\*Emma Williamson  
Jonathan Williamson  
Diana Winfield

##### In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)  
Steve Mathison  
Shetland Times  
\*Shetland News

##### Apologies

Shayne McLeod  
Robert Leask  
Cllr Cecil Smith  
Cllr Arwed Wenger  
Michael Duncan

##### Ex-Officio

Cllr John Fraser  
Cllr Dennis Leask  
Cllr Stephen Leask  
Cllr Neil Pearson  
Cllr Gary Robinson

\* On-line Via MS Teams

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

7.4 – SN

10.6 - JA

#### 4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Approved by: AC

Seconded by: SH

#### 5. Police Report

5.1 June/July

BH noted recent press coverage regarding anti-social behaviour in the lanes. SH commented that the situation has not personally affected him and acknowledged that

young people have always gathered in the various locations, with this being one such place. He suggested that if concerns arise, engaging directly with the young people could be beneficial.

BH also observed that two benches appear to have been moved in Harrison Square. SH believes the benches were moved to a more sheltered area, possibly to provide a discreet space for young people to gather. He noted the limited space between the bench and the stone wall, suggesting it offers some privacy. SH reflected on a recent visit to Norway, where the approach to anti-social behaviour focused on support rather than enforcement.

Cllr S Leask reported disturbances and anti-social behaviour at Hangcliff Lane. The matter has been raised with the Community Resilience Board, and Police Scotland are actively investigating. Concerns were expressed about litter and discarded vapes in the area behind The Lounge, which was described as being in a disgraceful state. While acknowledging the need for young people to have a place to go, Cllr S Leask emphasised that disturbances must be addressed.

Cllr N Pearson confirmed that community safety and resilience issues are raised at every board meeting. Police are taking positive steps, including the introduction of Street Pastors – trained individuals who will patrol during weekends to ensure young people are safe and well. Although training has been delayed, the initiative is progressing.

AH agreed with SH's perspective, noting that everyone was once that age and highlighting the lack of alternative spaces for young people. However, she also acknowledged that some residents are struggling to leave their homes due to noise and disturbances.

Cllr D Leask confirmed seeing the relocated benches, which appears to have been moved into a corner for shelter. He felt this was acceptable.

BH suggested inviting representatives from the Street Pastors initiative to a future LCC meeting to provide more information about their role and plans.

JA had not seen the benches but noted, following Cllr D Leask's comments, that alternative benches are available. If the relocated benches are on uneven ground, they may need to be stabilised.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact Roads to request an assessment and potential stabilisation of the relocated benches.

## **6. Actions from last meeting**

### **6.1 Action tracker spreadsheet**

#### **Payphones**

A response was received from BT regarding the usage of all public payphones in Lerwick. The data included the number of helpline calls made over the past 12

months. It was noted that one helpline call had been made from the payphone located at Hill Lane, Lerwick.

## **7. Correspondence/ Discussion Points**

### **7.1 Proposed Traffic Calming, Lerwick**

Cllr G Robinson reported receiving a significant volume of correspondence from constituents regarding the proposed traffic calming measures, noting universal opposition to speed bumps, concerns about the positioning of pedestrian crossings, and scepticism about the effectiveness of a 20MPH limit if not enforced. All feedback received was negative.

SH queried why King Harald Street, previously excluded as an arterial route. Cllr S Leask echoed the volume of feedback from residents, noting support for pedestrian crossings but opposition to speed bumps, especially near Cockatoo Brae due to potential impact on disabled bays and the UHA procession.

AH reported receiving numerous calls, raising concerns about access to homes, garages, and businesses along King Harald Street.

Cllr D Leask said his understanding was that the measures involve raised platforms rather than speed bumps and that SIC Roads had confirmed that the galley could pass over them. He noted that, following the implementation of the 20MPH speed limit, there must be a period of monitoring to assess whether the measures are effectively reducing vehicle speeds. The evaluation should consider whether the initiative is achieving its intended outcomes, such as, improving road safety, encouraging active travel and creating a more pleasant and accessible environment for all road users.

KF felt that LCC had been in support of the 20MPH limit and pedestrian crossings but had acknowledged the difficulty in getting drivers to comply without enforcement, necessitating physical measures. JW agreed and suggested revisiting the proposals to explore alternative measures.

EW raised concerns about road safety in the town centre, noting that tourists often misunderstand how pedestrian crossings work. She also highlighted the risks posed by dark evenings and winding streets, and expressed confusion over current speed limits, suggesting that a consistent 20MPH zone throughout the town would improve safety and clarity.

Cllr S Leask referred to the previous meeting with Mr Hutcheson, noting the suggestion that a 20MPH limit from the Co-op to Tesco would create a consistent zone through the town. He expressed concern over significant safety issues, particularly on King Harald Street, where parked cars on both sides of the road pose risks for children and young people crossing. He also referenced concerns raised at a recent Bell's Brae Parent Council meeting regarding pupils walking to school and crossing the busy road, which he felt may have led to an increase in parents driving their children to school. He stressed the need for more pedestrian crossings in the area. BH supported Cllr S Leask's comments.

JA reported that during Mr Hutcheson's previous attendance, the general sentiment in the room was supportive of implementing speed limits and pedestrian crossings. However, there was little enthusiasm for physical calming measures such as speed cushions or pillows.

JA suggested that a build-out could be considered at the bottom of Cockatoo Brae, where a parking space would not be feasible, thereby avoiding the loss of additional parking. The group discussed the possibility of implementing more passive safety measures as a compromise to enhance pedestrian safety without resorting to speed bumps or significantly reducing available parking.

DW was in support of build-outs for improved accessibility, especially for wheelchair users and partially sighted individuals, and stressed the need for visible road features to aid neurodivergent children and adults.

AH asked whether a feasibility study had been conducted on parking needs in the affected area.

Cllr D Leask explained the two-stage approach: implementing traffic calming before reducing speed limits. He confirmed that the plan is to end the 20MPH zone at Bolts, not extending it to the Co-op.

JW asked what LCC aims to achieve, acknowledging residents' dissatisfaction but recognising the need for improved safety.

Cllr G Robinson felt education should precede enforcement and expressed frustration over speed bumps. SH agreed.

AC noted that driving through Burgh Road is already difficult due to congestion, and King Harald Street is similarly constrained by parked cars.

It was noted that all representations received were negative, particularly regarding the loss of parking and opposition to speed bumps. Build-outs were suggested as a possible compromise to improve crossing safety.

Cllr D Leask cautioned that feedback may not reflect support from those in favour of the proposals, as only directly affected residents were contacted. Many support the 20MPH limit and pedestrian crossings but oppose speed bumps.

JW summarised that physical measures are required to enforce the 20MPH limit if compliance is not achieved.

AH noted that the proposals are based on guidance, not statutory requirements, and suggested comparing Shetland's situation with other areas in Scotland.

## 7.2 Lerwick Extension of 20MPH Zone – 53 King Harald Street

See 7.1.

7.3 Lerwick Extension of 20MPH Zone – Burgh Road

See 7.1.

7.4 Staney Hill Development – Dust Suppression

SN raised concerns regarding the rock breaking and lack of dust suppression at the Staney Hill development. Cllr G Robinson noted that rock breaking behind the hostel appears to have concluded. However, a longer-standing concern remains regarding the large volume of material stockpiled at the top of the hill. He questioned how dust from this area will be managed during windy conditions.

It was noted that part of the planning approval includes the reuse of excavated material on site to avoid the need for transportation off-site. Members expressed concern about how dust suppression will be handled effectively, particularly in relation to the exposed stockpile at the top of the hill.

7.5 The Compass Centre – Stand up, Spik oot

Noted.

7.6 SSEN Shetland Public Consultation Events

Noted.

7.7 Workshop Invitation – Postal Service in Lerwick

The workshop will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

→ ACTION: Clerk to circulate the invitation.

**8. Community Council Elections 2025**

Community Council Elections are now open, with a closing date of Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm. As of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 4 nomination forms had been received for Lerwick.

**9. Association of Community Councils**

9.1 Meeting papers for **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

DW will attend in JA's absence.

**10. Finance**

10.1 Financial Statement

Noted.

10.2 Use of Funding/Loot for Lerwick

This item is to be carried over to the December meeting when newly elected members will be in place.

10.3 LCC – Local Place Plans Community Engagement Funding

JA proposed that £2,500 of LCC funding be ringfenced to support community engagement activities related to the development of a Local Place Plan. This funding would cover costs such as leaflet production (or alternative outreach materials), hall hire, and refreshments for drop-in sessions.

Proposed by: JA

Seconded by: DW

**10.4 LCC – Royal Voluntary Service – Grant Application**

Requested £1,960. JW suggested awarding £400.

Proposed by: JW

Seconded by: AH

**10.5 LCC – Gulberwick Toddlers – Grant Application**

£100

Proposed by: KF

Seconded by: JW

**10.6 LCC – Lerwick Boating Club – Grant Application**

AS chaired this item as JA declared an interest.

£500

Proposed by: KF

Seconded by: AC

**10.7 VCF – Community Grant Scheme (CGS)**

LCC allocated a total of £1,500 from the 2024/25 CGS to support two local projects:

- St Magnus' Episcopal Church – £500 towards the upgrade tourist information boards.
- Lerwick Community Council – £1,000 to support a dog fouling awareness campaign.

This left £5,794 in unspent funds, which has been carried forward into the 2025/26 allocation of £6,515, along with an additional £242 CPI uplift. This provides a total available balance of £12,551 as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

**10.8 VCF – Annual Report 2024/25**

Noted.

**10.9 VCF – Dog Fouling – Competition Entries**

A total of 67 poster entries were received for the dog fouling awareness competition from pupils at Sound Primary School. Thanks were extended to BH, DW and KF for assisting JA with judging the entries at the weekend.

A year group winner and a slogan winner were selected. JA will share the results with Mr Billy Mycock and discuss next steps. Winning entries will be shared at the next meeting.

KF and DW praised the variety and quality of the posters, nothing the impressive effort from pupils.

## 11. Licences

- 11.1 Lerwick Port Authority (Per Arch Henderson LLP) – Capital Dredging and Sea Deposit – Lerwick Harbour  
No comments.

## 12. Disabled Parking

- 12.1 King Harald Street  
No comments.

## 13. Planning (all plans can be viewed at: <https://pa.shetland.gov.uk/online-applications/>)

- 13.1 Local Place Plans

### 13.2 To erect a bike shelter within Mareel's carpark with e-bike charging facilities.

Mareel Carpark, Gutters Gaet, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0WQ

Ref. No: [2025/254/PPF](#) | Received: Thu 25 Sep 2025 | Validated: Thu 25 Sep 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

### 13.3 To install a mobile sauna on grassed area including changing lobby and installation of timber-lined benches and a stove.

South Of Brevik House, South Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0RB

Ref. No: [2025/248/PPF](#) | Received: Fri 19 Sep 2025 | Validated: Fri 26 Sep 2025 |

Status: Grant Pending Consideration

AC queried whether the installation would inhibit future development on the site, noting signage from 2021 indicating housing was planned.

EW raised concerns about the sauna's proximity to the shoreline and whether it would encourage access to the water, highlighting safety risks due to rocky terrain, swell, and untreated sewage outflow in the area. JA confirmed the planning application does not include opening access to the water or erecting safety signage.

### 13.4 To cut back existing tree and remove branches.

19 Bank Lane, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0DT

Ref. No: [2025/238/TCA](#) | Received: Thu 18 Sep 2025 | Validated: Thu 18 Sep 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

### 13.5 Full replacements of 8no, Neve leaded glass windows, works include; removal of existing leaded glass, Perspex screens, saddle bars & ties; clean & make good checks into stoneworks; design, supply & fit replacement leaded glass with new saddle bars & ties; new polycarbonate Perspex screens.

St Margaret's, Harbour Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0JS

Ref. No: [2025/246/PPF](#) & [2025/247/LBC](#) | Received: Thu 18 Sep 2025 | Validated: Thu

18 Sep 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

**13.6 To erect dwellinghouse with integral garage; install air source heat pump; install new septic tank and connection to existing sea outfall pipe.**

Bankfield, Lower Sound, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0RN

Ref. No: [2025/237/PPF](#) | Received: Thu 18 Sep 2025 | Validated: Fri 19 Sep 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

**13.7 To realign existing Core Path; stopping up of Freefield Road and erection of security fencing and gates.**

Huws Gray Ltd, Freefield, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0NH

Ref. No: [2025/242/PPF](#) | Received: Thu 18 Sep 2025 | Validated: Thu 18 Sep 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

No comments – the revised application appears to have addressed previous concerns raised by LCC.

**13.8 Change of use from former take-away restaurant / basement level store into self-contained dwelling.**

17 Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0EJ

Ref. No: [2025/233/PPF](#) | Received: Mon 15 Sep 2025 | Validated: Tue 16 Sep 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

**13.9 To create agricultural access track and hardstanding/laydown area; install filter strip and swales.**

Shetland Rural Centre, Stoney Hill Industrial Estate, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0NA

Ref. No: [2025/229/PPF](#) | Received: Tue 09 Sep 2025 | Validated: Fri 12 Sep 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

**13.10 To extend existing workshop with new workshop building to house expanded engineering business.**

L&M Engineering (UK) Ltd, Gremista, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0PX

Ref. No: [2025/222/PPF](#) | Received: Fri 29 Aug 2025 | Validated: Mon 01 Sep 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

**14. AOB**

**Access Steps to Bains Beach**

EW asked who would be responsible for maintaining the access steps to Bains Beach. She also noted that the steps at Waarie Geo needed repair.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact Neil Hutcherson to ask if they maintain these steps and if repairs can be made.

**Secure Dog Play Area**

AH asked if there is any area in Lerwick where there can be a secure dog playing area. There was a suggestion to ask Robert Sinclair regarding the area in front of the Bruce Hostel, as part of the Knab Development Plan.

DW asked if any plans can include accessible access.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact Robert Sinclair to enquire.

### **2026 Meeting Dates**

The Town Hall is unavailable on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April due to the Easter Public Holiday. There was a proposal to change the date of the meeting to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Proposed by: JA

Seconded by: JW

→ ACTION: Clerk to confirm availability with Town Hall.

## **15. Date of Next Meeting**

15.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.